

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/215,058

Applicant(s)

HOFFMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

John Van Bramer

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the applicant's response filed January 10, 2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 23-31.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/20/06
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



ERIC W. STAMBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed September 20, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art was found that teaches the use of biometric data in authorizing a transaction between two parties (Houvener et al.: U.S. Patent Number: 6,070,141; Daugman: U.S. Patent Number: 5,291,560; and GTE Government Sys: WO/98/50875; and Anna Stockel: Securing Data and Financial Transactions Security Technology, 1995. Proceedings. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 29th Annual 1995 International Carnahan Conference; 18-20 Oct 1995; page(s): 397-401). The Houvener reference discloses a system whereby a customer registers a biometric sample and account data in a centralized database. Retailers, or other service providers, utilizing the system would authenticate customers using both biometric data and some other physical token such as a credit card. Upon receiving authentication the retailer could process the payment of the customer for the goods to be purchased. In contrast, Claim 1 of the current application performs authentication by means of biometric sample matching. In the instant application the

user registers a biometric sample in a database. This biometric sample is associated with a financial account (such as a credit card account). When a customer wishes to interact with a retailer or other service provider, the customer provides only the biometric sample to achieve authentication. The biometric sample is compared to a database of biometric samples to identify the account associated with said customer. Once the account is identified the transaction is authorized and completed. Due to the difference in processing the authentication request (i.e. identify with both a token and a biometric sample vs. identifying using only a submitted biometric sample) the examiner relied upon the Daugman reference to teach searching a database of biometric samples in order to authenticate a user. However, the Board of Appeals reviewed the combination of the prior art and, in the Board Decision dated August 28, 2006, found that modifying Houvener in view of the teaching of Daugman would not result in a tokenless system that uses only biometrics for identification. Therefore, Claims 1-12 and 23-31 are allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Van Bramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-8198. The examiner can normally be reached on 6am - 4pm Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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